

The Chicago Fire Department - 2013 Budget Hearing

Good Morning, Madam Chairman and members of the City Council. The Chicago Fire Department is pleased to be here this morning to discuss our 2013 budget.

Under the leadership of Mayor Emanuel, the Chicago Fire Department continues to make the most of technology, training and personnel to safeguard the residents and visitors of our great city. And while we speak of staying on the forefront of technology, we must reflect on the reality that we are still lacking on the issue of diversity.

I am committed to looking for new ways to finally make meaningful changes that can and will improve our diversity, while not denying any group the right to seek and obtain employment or promotions with this department.

We will continue to work with DHR, but we will also do more on our own. As an example, let me assure you I will pay close attention to our hiring process for paramedics. Unlike firefighter applicants, paramedic applicants do not sit for an exam. They only need a current paramedic license to be placed on the applicant list.

I will make sure that we have a twofold approach to improve the diversity of our EMS ranks. First, by making sure we reach out to all paramedic training sites in Illinois, to sign-up for our entry list.

And we will do more to reach out far and wide to spread the word to those who have not yet made up their mind on a profession - to give them information that will allow them to consider a career as a paramedic with an eye toward coming on board with the CFD.

We can also do more on our firefighter side - from recruitment to promotion. And I again assure you that you will see positive results, including better outreach to all of your aldermanic offices to make sure you are aware of exams dates and entry windows.

We will better tap our already diverse group of young people currently taking part in the Chicago Fire and Police Training Academy program.

And while there are some contractual and legal restraints on methods we use to achieve diversity, I am open to any suggestions that you might have on these matters - and we will all work together to move forward for meaningful improvements.

As always, the core mission of the Chicago Fire Department is to protect the lives and property of the people of Chicago from fire, disasters - both natural and man-made - emergency medical issues, and hazardous materials incidents.

We achieve this by delivering a variety of cutting-edge emergency medical, fire suppression and prevention, and public education initiatives.

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During these tough times, we must do more with less. But in order to achieve doing “more with less”, we must look at ways that we can tighten our belts by taking an even more aggressive look for grants that can assist us without impacting city resources.

Obtaining more grant funding has helped us provide additional training and has bolstered our public education’s smoke detector program.

This year, the Chicago Fire Department has installed 4200 free smoke detectors and has given away approximately 20,000 smoke detectors at firehouses, aldermen’s offices, at fire safety programs and neighborhood canvasses.

The CFD has also received \$111,151 from the Assistance to Firefighter’s Grant for the purchase and installation of 4,000 smoke detectors and 100 smoke detectors for people who are hearing impaired.

This grant has also enabled the CFD to conduct five fire safety education programs - for children who are visually and hearing impaired, in addition to translating fire safety materials into other languages.

As we respond to nearly 600,000 911 request for service this year, we must be ready for any emergency - medical, fire or natural disaster.

Even with the new financial challenges being faced by all municipalities across the country, the Chicago Fire Department has strived to maintain the highest level of professional service 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

With your continued support, I pledge to make the very best use of all resources, while looking for every opportunity to augment our training and public education program with grant funding, wherever possible.

As Fire Commissioner, I will continue to ensure that my door is always open and my staff is available to each of you, just as our firefighters and paramedics are there for everyone - in every community - in Chicago.

It is my goal to be ever mindful of the City’s resources and I will continue to focus on delivering unparalleled fire suppression and EMS services, educating the public on fire prevention and continuing our goal of providing a wide-ranging public education programs to promote life safety.

I ask that you continue to place your trust in us to achieve these goals in the most cost efficient manner. I am here today, along with key members of my management staff to answer any questions you may have.

Thank you.

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MBE/WBE Data

Period: 2012

Total Purchases: \$5,500,000

	MBE	WBE	Total MBE/WBE Purchases
Asian	\$629,000 (11%)	\$xx (xx%)	
African-American	\$392,000 (7%)	\$xx (xx%)	
Hispanic	\$191,000 (4%)	\$xx (xx%)	
Total Spending	\$1,200,000 (22%)	\$207,000 (4%)	\$1,407,000 (26%)

Staffing Data

	Department Wide Diversity			
	Male	Female	Total	%
Asian	47	2	49	0.99%
American Indian	16	2	18	0.36%
Black	875	101	976	19.68%
Hispanic	577	43	620	12.50%
White	3066	230	3296	66.47%
Total	4581	378	4959	

New Hires Ethnicity and Gender				
	Male	Female	Total	%
Asian	2	0	2	1.19%
Black	112	5	117	69.64%
Hispanic	6	3	9	5.36%
White	24	16	40	23.81%
Total	144	24	168	
	85.71%	14.29%		

Department Managers Ethnicity and Gender				
	Male	Female	Total	%
Asian	2	-	2	2.6%
Black	12	15	27	35.5%
Hispanic	7	-	7	9.2%
White	33	7	40	52.6
Total	54	22	76	
	71%	28.9%		



Chicago Fire Department Organizational Chart

